

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-4 (canceled).

5. (new) A device for filtering and reducing pressure of air that builds up in a crankcase of an operating internal combustion engine, the crankcase disposed adjacent a piston with an inlet manifold supplying filtered air to the piston, comprising:

a filter container having an upstream air inlet including means for connection to the crankcase to remove air therefrom, and a downstream air outlet including means for connection to the inlet manifold to supply filtered air thereto;

a filter means comprising at least one wall or cylinder of fibrous material running between walls of the filter container, separating the container thereby into an inlet chamber comprising the inlet, and an outlet chamber comprising the outlet, the fibrous material comprising needled or thermally bonded fibers; and

a liquid outlet in a lower portion of the outlet chamber separate from the air outlet, the liquid outlet comprising means for connection to the crankcase the return particles collected by the filter thereto.

6. (new) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the filter container has a fixed position in relation to the internal combustion engine.

7. (new) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the filter container has a predetermined angle in relation to the internal combustion engine.

8. (new) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fibrous material is comprised of fiber mats, in which the fibers have a diameter of 1-40 μm .

9. (new) In combination,

an internal combustion engine including a crankcase disposed adjacent a piston with an inlet manifold supplying filtered air to the piston, and

a device for filtering and reducing pressure of air that builds up in a crankcase during operation of the engine, comprising:

a filter container having an upstream air inlet including means for connection to the crankcase to remove air therefrom, and a downstream air outlet including means for connection to the inlet manifold to supply filtered air thereto;

a filter means comprising at least one wall or cylinder of fibrous material running between walls of the filter container, separating the container thereby into an inlet chamber comprising the inlet, and an outlet chamber comprising the outlet, the fibrous material comprising needled or thermally bonded fibers; and

a liquid outlet in a lower portion of the outlet chamber separate from the air outlet, the liquid outlet comprising means for connection to the crankcase the return particles collected by the filter thereto.

10. (new) The combination as claimed in claim 5, wherein the filter container has a fixed position in relation to the internal combustion engine.

11. (new) The combination as claimed in claim 5, wherein the filter container has a predetermined angle in relation to the internal combustion engine.

12. (new) The combination as claimed in claim 5, wherein the fibrous material is comprised of fiber mats, in which the fibers have a diameter of 1-40 μm .